GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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© *Photograph from Geo. Finlay Simmons*

SHARK-SUCKER, THE ORIGINAL "HITCH HIKER"

This strange fish attaches itself to sharks and sometimes to ships by means of a suction disk, or vacuum cup, on its head. Since shark-hunting has become an industry, many a Remora (its true name) has had to look around for another "taxi" (See Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geogaphic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Mount Athos Welcomes the Visitor to the Middle Ages

EARTHQUAKE shocks along the Chalcidike Peninsula, in northeastern Greece, brought into the newspapers of the world the name of Mount Athos, a 1,000-year-old church republic which wants to be, above all else, a secure retreat from politics, newspapers and everyday affairs. Here, at the tip of a long finger of mountainous land, a little cluster of monasteries has kept alive the traditions of the Greek Catholic Church since the days of Byzantium.

Steamers from the earthquake zone bring eye-witness reports of damage to three of the monasteries, but the churches, libraries and the famous frescoes (paintings on plaster) were not injured.

Santa Claus in a Ballet Skirt

At Daphni, port of the Holy Mountain, a handsome policeman who looks like Santa Claus in a ballet skirt welcomes the visitor to the Middle Ages. One enters the theocratic republic only as a guest. If ample notice is given in advance, women are permitted to land and look at the monasteries from outside. They cannot enter the doorways which lead to a monastic life that has changed little since pre-Crusade days, when the first of the twenty monasteries was built.

The capital of this unique retreat from females and modernity is Karyés, near the center of the peninsula. There is an inn or two. The keeper of the general store will cash one's travelers' checks. Several shops sell ikons, bead chains and other ecclesiastical goods specially blessed by their relationship with the Holy Mountain.

Mount Athos has its conservative and its liberal monastic communities. A few of the twenty monasteries are equipped with electric lights; and hens as well as roosters are permitted. Other of the monasteries still cling to their age-old prohibition against all forms of female life.

The natural setting is one of infinite charm. There is a profusion of trees, and the ruddy monasteries, looking like medieval castles, rise beside a sea of matchless blue.

Apart from Worldly Affairs

One does not go to Mount Athos to see beauty, but to experience a form of life elsewhere unknown. The attraction of the place lies not in its comforts or its food. Even the best on Mount Athos is inferior to worldly fare. It is the participation in the monastic life, the withdrawal from mundane affairs, which most visitors find fascinating.

It is the life of midnight prayers by the light of guttering candles set amid old frescoes and massive candelabra. It is the life of the common table; though some monasteries have a guest-master who allows the visitor, unaccustomed to long fasts and a vegetarian diet, to enjoy dishes forbidden to his hosts. It is the life of paintings whose subjects are not those of the eye but of the imagination. The inner walls of the monastery churches resemble a richly illustrated Bible except that the murals show animals of the Apocalypse rather than of the zoo.

Priceless manuscripts exist in the closely guarded libraries, many of which have been gutted by fires, and there are gaudy presents through which mighty emperors sought to buy favor.

In one of the monasteries dwells a monk who was once a waiter in a 38th

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KIPLING CALLED THE FUZZY WUZZY "A FIRST CLASS FIGHTIN' MAN"

From boyhood these tribesmen of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan are taught the use of the sword. This is a practice bout. The two men leap up and down and cut at each other with their swords, being careful, however, to miss. Nobody knows much about the history of the Fuzzies. They are Mohammedans, but their language is quite distinct from the Arabic (See Bulletin No. 2).

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Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Land of Cotton, Gum Arabic and Ivory

A GROUP of English scientists has left Cairo in four automobiles to explore the extreme northwestern areas of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a vast, little-known region on the fringe of the Libyan Desert.

Raw, untamed, thirsty, dead-flat Anglo-Egyptian Sudan sprawls over the African plains that are bordered by the scorching Libyan Desert on the north and the steaming Congo jungles on the south.

One-Third Size of United States

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan's boundaries inclose 1,008,000 square miles and many strange things:—red-skinned negroes, the world's largest angle-worm colony, the mucilage that sticks stamps to envelopes, dread "haboobs," Kipling's Fuzzy Wuzzies, one of the world's largest dams, part of one of the world's longest rivers, a few resident American and British business men, and the incomparable Sudd swamp.

The Nile bisects Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, north and south; that is, the White Nile. At Khartum, capital and chief city of the Sudan, the sluggish White Nile is joined by the swifter Blue Nile rushing down from the Abyssinian highland and bearing at flood time the yellow load of dirt that annually fertilizes Egypt's fields.

But the Blue Nile has been harnessed 300 miles above Khartum to make the Anglo-Egyptian desert bloom like a Mississippi cotton plantation. Figures tell the story: pre-war production 14,000 bales, in 1930 164,000 bales. What figures do not tell is that more than 100,000 of those bales contained the prince of cotton fibers, Sakellaridis, long staple cotton, the kind grown on Georgia's sea islands, and the kind that becomes cord for American cord automobile tires.

The Gezira cotton district owes its inception to an American. His original small concession has become virtually the world's largest cotton plantation, a triangular area 300 miles on its Blue Nile side, 200 miles on its White Nile side, and 69 miles across the base from the Sennar Dam on the Blue Nile to Kosti on the White Nile. In this triangle are 3,000,000 acres of black cotton soil.

The government supplies Nile river water to main canals from which it is distributed through 9,000 miles of canals by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate to cotton plots, each plot containing 30 acres. The Syndicate supplies the seed, long staple seed only, fights pests, and gins and markets the crop. From receipts it pays to tenants 40 per cent, to the government 35 per cent, and keeps 25 per cent for costs and dividends.

Tinted Panes on Train Windows

Cotton is linked with romance in Dixie, but not in the Sudan. The Sudan is hard; Africa is hard. All train coach windows are shaded by overhanging shutters closing out the sky, and the window panes are tinted to cut the glare.

Sand storms, called "haboobs," sweep the country. Khartum often finds itself engulfed in the boiling sand fog of a "haboob." So great is the penetration of sand that American exporters are warned by consular representatives not to ship foods put up in the ordinary waxed paper and cardboard boxes. Food must be packed in double tin boxes for the Sudan.

Egypt holds she should control the Sudan because all her rain runs through the Nile, and, lacking control of the upper end of the "ditch," Egypt finds herself at England's mercy.

England replies that her investment in men and money has made the Sudan

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Street cabaret in New York. He promised himself that if he outlived a sickness he would become a monk. When he recovered, friends tried to dissuade him from keeping his vow. But he had no rest until he entered one of the strictest of the monastery groups, where he is now happy. Criminals are said to have escaped to the oblivion of Mount Athos; but it is not a life in which a criminal would long feel at home.

Modern Painters Study Byzantine Art

On the Holy Mountain are several groups of artist monks whose religious paintings are sold to Greek churches throughout the world, though the Russian Revolution has spoiled their chief market. Several modernists are studying the color and methods of Byzantine art.

Note: For a more detailed description and additional photographs of this little-known region see: "The Hoary Monasteries of Mount Athos," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1916, which may be consulted in your school or public library. Classes studying Greece, its historic past and colorful present, should also read: "New Greece, the Centenarian, Forges Ahead," December, 1920; "History's Great Trek," November, 1925; "The Glory That Was Greece," December, 1922, and "Saloniki," September, 1916.

Bulletin No. 1, October 24, 1932.

© *Photograph by H. G. Dwight*

BALCONIES SHADE THE NARROW MAIN STREET OF KARYÉS

Karyés (whose name means *walnuts*) is the capital of the little church republic of Mount Athos in northeastern Greece. Newcomers may easily incur the displeasure of the priests, even if they do observe the rule requiring them to leave their wives and womenfolk behind. In this old-world community no man may ride, smoke, sing, or otherwise comport himself in too self-satisfied a manner.

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Geographic Illustrations Available for School Use

"How can we obtain National Geographic Society pictures in loose-leaf form for classroom use?"

"Are the remarkable illustrations in the *National Geographic Magazine* available in sets arranged by subjects for teaching?"

"Can photographs of the National Geographic Society be obtained with text explanations in the vocabularies of various grades?"

Hundreds of requests of these kinds led the officers of the National Geographic Society last spring to make available its entire series of six Pictorial Geography sets to schools for a price below the cost of the sets, as another of The Society's contributions to teaching geography.

Each of the Pictorial Geography sets contains 48 pictures—288 pictures in the series of six sets—each picture a photographic reproduction on sturdy, durable paper, 11 by 9 inches in size, accompanied by about 200 words of interesting, informative text, explaining the geographic significance of the illustration.

Photographs Teach When Words Fail

These 288 picture sheets and 288 narratives of the peoples, products, industries, physical features and the work and play activities of major regions of the earth fit courses of study, make geography study a delight, supply sand table material and wall decorations, and teach at a glance definitions which are difficult to impart by abstract words.

The titles of the sets indicating the organization of this library of geographic pictures, are:

1. Eskimo Life—Sahara Life
2. The Indian in America—The Negro in Africa
3. Life in China—The Hill Tribes of the Philippines.
4. The Land, the Water, the Air
5. The United States
6. Italy.

Until further notice these six Pictorial Geography sets—these 288 world-revealing photographs and the 288 vivid geographic narratives—may be had for $3.50 by teachers and schools.

The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational body, incorporated as a non-commercial institution, for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge. The *National Geographic Magazine* is more widely used, and bound for reference, by schools, than any other periodical. The Society's officers make available to schools, as the need is shown, other supplementary material, such as the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS, and now the compilation of photographs, arranged by subjects, in the Pictorial Geography sets.

A Further Contribution to Education

The BULLETINS represent a gift to American education, teachers being required to pay only the cost of mailing the thirty weekly issues. The Pictorial Geography sets are offered at less than cost—at a price only a fraction more than a cent per picture—as a further contribution to teaching.

The photographs are selected from The Society's unparalleled collection of geographic photographs—the world's foremost picture gallery of geography, wherein many single photographs cost almost as much to obtain as the purchase

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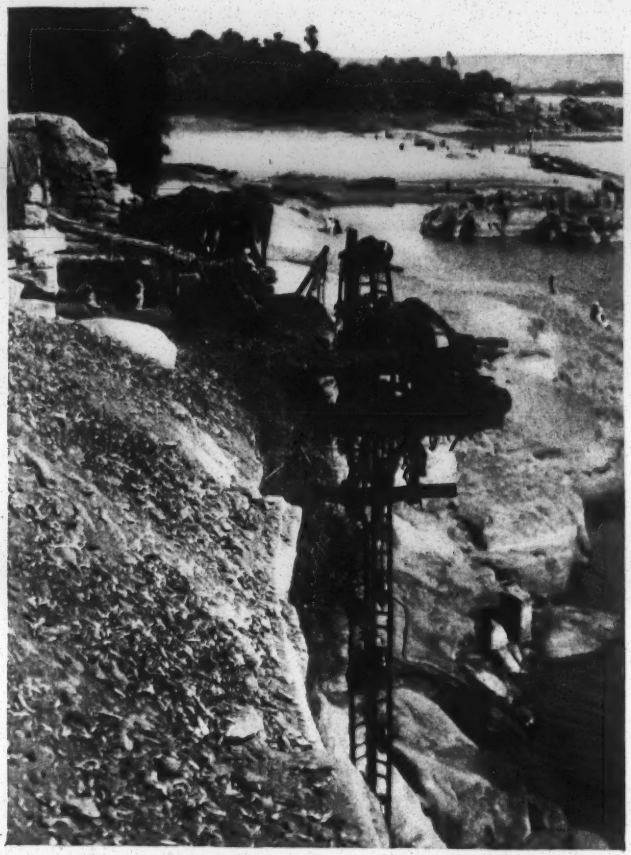
worth what it is; that Egypt's water necessities are safeguarded by a commission; that the dams built and projected by England will protect and extend Egypt's water resources; that the Sudan is necessary to the Cape-to-Cairo route and that the population of the Sudan is entirely different from Egypt's population.

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan even exports cotton to the United States. Annually eight million pounds of gum arabic, a resin scraped off dusty, stunted acacia trees, collected at the desert city of El Obeid, is shipped by rail to the seaport of Port Sudan on the Red Sea, and thence to America to gum postage stamps, envelopes, to glaze paper, to stiffen candy, and to be a constituent of many mucilages. Sudan also sent sheepskins that became driving gloves, ivory tusks that became billiard balls and keys for high grade pianos, and dom plant seeds for cheap buttons.

Note: For supplementary references see "Flights from Arctic to Equator," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1932; "Two Fighting Tribes of the Sudan," October, 1929; "Cairo to Cape Town," February, 1925; and "Along the Nile Through Egypt and the Sudan," October, 1922.

Bulletin No. 2, October 24, 1932.



© *Photograph by Earle Harrison*

A WATER LADDER OF THE UPPER NILE

Almost throughout its length in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and in Egypt the Nile flows through arid country. Here mechanisms like lofty dredging machines lift the life-giving waters by means of buckets on an endless chain. Oxen provide the motive power. Many of these primitive devices have been replaced in recent years by huge dams or barriers, which send water through modern irrigation channels to the fields.

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"Sharking," a New and Exciting Sea Industry

MAN is turning the tables on the shark, dread wolf of the sea. Instead of meekly keeping out of the shark's way, shark fishermen now seek this dangerous fish where he is found in the greatest numbers. "Sharking" in South Africa and in Australia has become a profitable and exciting means of making a living.

Many sharks are taken in the old-fashioned way with huge, baited hooks and towed to slaughter houses on the shore, but modern companies have taken a tip from the whaling industries. In South Africa small shark boats are being displaced by well-equipped floating shark "factories," or abattoirs.

Shark Nets Make the Big Fish Drown Itself

Shark nets are so made and placed in the water that the big fish, once entangled, is on its first lap to the markets of the world in the form of some twenty valuable commodities.

In a desperate attempt to liberate itself from the net, the shark literally drowns itself and is hoisted aboard the "sharker" for dissection. Chicago meat men boast that they use every particle of a pig except its squeal. The shark industry utilizes the whole shark and excepts nothing, for there is no squeal, nor even a grunt.

On the dissecting table, a monster first loses its fins. They are thrown into vats, where they begin a journey leading to the soup bowls of well-to-do Chinese. Then the skin succumbs to the sharp knives of expert cutters. Formerly the raw skin, with its hard, scale-like crystals, was used for polishing wood. The denticles also made the skin popular as sword and knife grips.

Shark Leather Will Not Crack

When cheap sandpaper appeared on the market, the expensive shark skin (shagreen) lost some of its usefulness. Meanwhile scientists invented a process by which the rough surface of the skin could be removed without damage to the skin. It was but a short time until shoes, purses, coats and many other leather goods of shark skin appeared on counters of the world's department stores.

Properly tanned, shark skin is soft, durable and non-fading, and it readily takes color. Leather made of shark skin does not crack.

Shark meat is stripped from the carcass in foot-square slabs. Dried and packed, most of it finally turns up on African or Malayan dinner tables. The shark liver gives up an oil that might easily be mistaken for codliver oil. It also contains vitamins.

Oil from Sharks Tempers Steel

Shark-liver oil is widely used in the manufacture of margarines and soaps and in tempering fine steel. A liver seven feet long, weighing 200 pounds, was taken from a 13-foot tiger shark.

Pigments are extracted from the shark's gall bladder, and some of the shark's glands are the source of valuable drugs. Glue, fertilizer and poultry feed also are valuable shark products.

Once an Australian business house received an order for 100,000 sharks' teeth

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price of an Old Master. The collection represents years of research and photographic surveys, into every phase of world life on land and sea, always with a view to portraying the distinctive, the typical, the enduring—not the ephemeral or the freakish aspects of other peoples and places.

Having only the desire to furnish schools with material which would be of service in teaching, The Society has sold separate sets of the Pictorial Geography at cost, that is at $1.50 for a single set of 48 pictures, so that teachers might assess their value in classrooms. They have been found usable, adaptable to courses from coast to coast, and most stimulating in geography study.

Singly, the sets must continue to sell at $1.50. Because of carriage and bookkeeping costs, no proportionate reduction can be made on single sets, or combinations of sets, other than the offer of the entire six sets for $3.50.

The attached form may be used in ordering:

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Enclosed please find ..... in payment, at the rate of $3.50 for each of the complete series of 288 illustrations with their accompanying text.

Bulletin No. 3, October 24, 1932.

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WHAT A GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER FOUND IN AN ESKIMO'S TUPIK, OR TENT

Eskimos seldom leave their native northland. They have no way of knowing about life in the Tropics or in the Temperate Zones except through pictures, and the stories of travelers. For this reason, perhaps, the Eskimo who lived in this skin tent treasured the copy of the *National Geographic Magazine* given to him by a previous explorer. Most of us have no way of knowing how the Eskimo lives or what his country is like except through pictures and the descriptions brought back by explorers. The "Eskimo" set of the Pictorial Geography tells, with the aid of clear photographs and explanatory text, how and why the Eskimo differs from jungle tribes and people of the Temperate Zone.

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São Paulo, Center of Brazil's "Tempest in a Coffee Pot"

CIVIL war has ended in Brazil. Federal forces have occupied the State of São Paulo, seat of the revolt, and have restored order in Santos, its principal seaport, and in the capital city of São Paulo. Coffee exports from this chief coffee-growing region of the world were forbidden, however, until the National Coffee Council investigated transactions made during the revolution.

The mountain-girt city of São Paulo, center of this "tempest in a coffee pot," is one of the oldest cities in South America, but age has not hindered its modern commercial development. "The Los Angeles of the South" it is often called by Americans, and in climate, wealth and situation it is similar to the coffee city's North American sister.

Named for the Apostle St. Paul

Fifty years before the Captain John Smith-Pocahontas episode at Jamestown, Virginia, a Portuguese sailor founded São Paulo and married the daughter of a native Indian chief.

Later Jesuit missionaries established a church at the settlement and held the first religious service on the feast day celebrating the conversion of St. Paul. Hence the name of the city, São Paulo, which means St. Paul.

For three centuries São Paulo enjoyed isolation, unfettered by colonial laws of Portugal. It was about 1,000 miles from the Portuguese government officials who were, at that time, at Bahia. In São Paulo, Brazil proclaimed its independence from Portugal in 1822.

About 1875 the ball of commercial progress started rolling among the inhabitants, and newcomers were instilled with a boom spirit. In slightly more than sixty years the city has increased in population from 26,000 to nearly 900,000, making it Brazil's second largest city. New streets were made broad and straight and flanked with modern buildings.

City That Coffee Built

The railway depot, municipal and state government buildings, museums, libraries, schools, and some of its new business buildings would be flattering additions to many cities of the world of the same size. Three huge public gardens and more than fifty parks break the monotony of the miles of streets.

São Paulo might properly be called the city that coffee built. Many of the palatial residences are those of the coffee "barons." In São Paulo streets, huge trucks, heavy carts, and perspiring men laden with sacks of coffee are always within view.

Residents of the city, returning from abroad after an absence of several years, are amazed to see in São Paulo today 20-story skyscrapers, ornate motion-picture houses, and long viaducts carrying motor traffic over congested areas. In the Martinelli Building the city of São Paulo has a skyscraper that would stand out in any other place except New York, and the Boa Vista viaduct is but one of several that enables the São Paulo motorist to travel quickly and safely from outlying sections to the busy "Triangle District."

Near the Independence Monument, in the suburbs of São Paulo, rises the

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from the South Sea islands, where they are as good spending money as are silver dollars in the United States. Many thousands of teeth that do not go to the South Seas are transported, cleaned and decorated with gold and silver, and finally adorn Chinese women.

Note: For a sketch of a shark catching net and pictures showing methods of treating shark skin consult "Shark Fishing, an Australian Industry," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1932. See also "A Modern Saga of the Seas," December, 1931; "Sinbads of Science," July, 1927; and "The Book of Fishes," by Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, published by the National Geographic Society. A list of The Society's natural science publications will be sent to teachers and librarians upon request.

Bulletin No. 4, October 24, 1932.

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© *Photograph by Erling Tambs*

A WOLF OF THE SEA IN HIS NATIVE ELEMENT

Like a sinister shadow the shark moves through the blue-green waters of the Tropics, and in northern waters during summer months. Often sharks prowl alone, but congregate in large numbers wherever food is to be found. Shark skin is now used to make women's shoes, bedroom slippers, pocketbooks, brief cases and other articles once chiefly made from animal leathers.

handsomely landscaped building of the Ypiranga Museum, containing a notable collection of exhibits concerning human and animal life.

Seven Coffee Trees For Every State Resident

Coffee was not introduced into Brazil until two centuries ago, but the price of coffee now largely governs the rise and fall of São Paulo's prosperity. While Ethiopia is the original home of coffee, São Paulo State has adopted the greater portion of the descendants of the original coffee berries. If all the coffee plantations in the state were in one plantation, it would cover an area as large as Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

In a single year more than one and a quarter million pounds of coffee are produced in the state. There are more than seven coffee trees for every man, woman and child in São Paulo.

More than 3,500 miles of railroads now use São Paulo as a hub. The railroad from São Paulo to Santos, the city's port on the Atlantic, is one of the world's most profitable steel highways, although its upkeep per mile is staggering. In the 87 miles of sinuous tracks between the cities, trains must climb from sea level, at Santos, to nearly 3,000 feet at São Paulo. In one seven-mile section the line rises more than 2,000 feet. Sixteen viaducts and fifteen tunnels were necessary in building it, while steep grades and heavy rainfall required an elaborate drainage system of brick and concrete.

Note: See also "Skypaths Through Latin America," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1931; "Gigantic Brazil and Its Glittering Capital," December, 1930; and "How Latin America Looks from the Air," October, 1927.

Bulletin No. 5, October 24, 1932.

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AN OPEN-AIR POTTERY MARKET IN SÃO PAULO

Pots, jars and pitchers, all of Brazilian manufacture, find a ready sale in this chief coffee-growing center of the world. São Paulo is so cosmopolitan that it can trade in several languages. Italian, French, English, German and Arabic are spoken almost as much as the native Portuguese. Among the laboring classes one hears a patois that is a blend of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

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